UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/64
20 January 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 13 January 1999 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. It refers to the manoeuvres carried out by air, ground and naval forces of the Iranian Army and Guard under the name "Unity 77" over a five-day period between 4 to 10 December 1998 and protests against the fact that the manoeuvres included the occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yacub Yousif AL-HOSANI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-01428 (E) 210199 210199

/...

Annex

Note verbale dated 13 January 1999 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi.

The Ministry refers to the manoeuvres carried out by air, ground and naval forces of the Iranian Army and Guard under the name "Unity 77" over a five-day period between 4 and 10 December 1998 in which 160 naval vessels and 120 aircraft took part, 350 sorties were flown and surface-to-air missiles were used, as reported by Colonel Isa Golvardi, spokesman for the manoeuvres. The Ministry would like to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the fact that the manoeuvres included the United Arab Emirates islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa is to be considered a violation on the part of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates and part of an ongoing attempt by the Islamic Republic of Iran to perpetuate the occupation.

Accordingly, the United Arab Emirates wishes to inform the Islamic Republic of Iran that it protests against this unlawful action in the strongest terms. It regards this and all previous measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the islands as unwarranted acts of provocation that do not confer any rights on the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the islands.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over the islands in question. It once again affirms that it does not recognize any other sovereignty over the islands, and it reserves all of its rights with regard the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.